

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/711,307

Examiner

Geoffrey S. Evans

Applicant(s)

GARNIER ET AL.

Art Unit

1725

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the filing of the application.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 20041116 (13 sheets)
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Geoffrey S. Evans
Primary Examiner
Group 1700

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement for reasons for allowance: Yamaguchi et al. in Japan Patent No. 2003-136,248 discloses a thermal cutting machine with exhaust chambers. DE 299 16 400 discloses a support table for workpiece that are thermally processed with an integrated suction system. Lai in U.S. Patent No. 6,881,924 discloses an air collecting bin in a laser-cutting/engraving machine. Regarding claims 1-9, none of the references disclose or suggest, alone or in combination a laser assembly comprising at least one clamp operatively associated between the frame and the removable work table having a clamping position for clamping the work table to the frame with the work surface in the work surface plane and a release position for removing the work table from the frame. Regarding claims 10-15 none of the references disclose or suggest, alone or in combination a laser assembly comprising a removable work table having a planar work surface, an X-Y beam transport operatively associated with the frame, and a void underlying the removable table, the void being operatively associated with the X-Y beam transport with the removable work surface removed. Regarding claims 16-27, none of the references disclose or suggest, alone or in combination a laser assembly comprising a redirectable exhaust having an exhaust inlet operatively associated with the work table for transitioning exhausting above or below the work surface as the work table is moved from the distal position to the proximal position along the Z axis. Regarding claims 28-30, none of the references disclose or suggest, alone or in combination a method of exhausting fumes from a laser assembly comprising: automatically selectively

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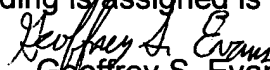
exhausting air below the work table as a function of the thickness of the work piece along the Z axis.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Geoffrey S Evans whose telephone number is (571)-272-1174. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 6:30AM to 4:00 PM, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Dunn can be reached on (571)-272-1171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)-273-8300.

GSE


Geoffrey S. Evans
Primary Examiner
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